that nickel is not injurious to health? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The hon. Member has not understood me properly. Try to understand what I am saying. (*Interruptions*).... I said the nickel content in the food and not nickel itself.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Sugar also is injurious to health.

Guidelines Issued by Chief Election Commissioner to N.E. State

185. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has issued some guidelines to the N.E. States on the rolls Revision issue and to delete the foreigner's names from the draft electoral rolls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal with the Government to issue Identity Card to the people in the N.E. Region (bordering States of Bangladesh) to check infiltration; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) A *statement* is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMEET

(a) and (b) In August 1992, the Election Commission of India issued directions to all the States/Union Territories (except Jammu & Kashmir) with regard to intensive revision of Electoral Rolls. These directions, *inter-alia* broadly provide for identification of areas having substantial presence of foreign nationals and application of Special Enumeration Procedure for these areas by the concerned State Governments. Subsequently, the Commission issued Special Revised Instructions to the Government of Assam in May 1993 for intensive revision of Electoral Rolls in the State of Assam.

(c) and (d) The Government have decided to introduce a Scheme of Identity Cards in certain infiltration-prone border areas of the country including the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal in the North East. The concerned State Governments have been requested to complete the ground-work urgently so that distribution of Identity Cards may start immediately.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Madam, the reply given by the hon. Minister is no answer to the question put by me. I wanted to know specifically as to whether there were directives from the Chief Election Commissioner regarding the revision of electoral rolls. Now, while it is admitted that certain directives were issued in connection with the revision of electoral rolls and special revised instructions were also given to the Government of Assam regarding the revision of electoral rolls, I wanted to know specifically the details of the directors. No details of the directions so issued in connection with the revision of electoral rolls have been supplied. Madam, you know very well that due to the revision of electoral rolls in Assam, the political atmosphere has become very hot. There are allegations that a large number of names of genuine Indian citizens have been left out. On the other hand, there are counter—allegations that a large number of names of foreigners have found place in the rolls.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Madam, the hon. Member is partially correct because the directives of the Election Commission, which I referred to in the main statement, run into two pages. Therefore, I would like to place it on the Table of the House for the benefit of the House and also the Member. The main question which he has asked is with regard to the directions. They are there. I have already conceded that. As has been mentioned by him, they have created a

lot of difficulties in Assam. It is an emotive issue in Assam. There are legal impediments also on account of these directions. Two private petitioners have gone to the Guwahati High Court and the Guwahati High Court is seized of the matter. That very matter is coming up for hearing today. Therefore, it is true that on account of these directions a lot of difficulties are there. Even the names of genuine people who should have found their names in the electoral rolls could not be found. The Central Government, the Election Commission and the Government of Assam are respondents to this petition which is being heard. It appears to me that after that the Election Commission will take appropriate steps to solve this problem.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDER: Madam, is it the reply of the hon. Minister that there are certain difficulties in providing the details of the directives? Am I to understand in that way? Am I to understand that the hon. Minister has got difficulties?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: The directions of the Election Commission, I have only stated here, are very lengthy. That can be made available even to the Members.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has got the directions which the Chief Election Commissioner has given. He has got a copy with him. He is laying it on the Table of the House because it is a very lengthy one and we don't have enough time. So, we will leave it as he has laid on the Table of the House. You can put your supplementary. Please put the second supplementary.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Now regarding the second part, my question was "whether there is a proposal with the Government to issue identity cards to the people in the N.E. region (bordering States of Bangaldesh) to check infiltraiton; and if so, what are the details thereof?" Here also from the reply I find that the reply is vague, indefinite and evasive. The details are not given. Now in the reply it has been stated "the Government have decided to introduce a scheme of identity cards in certain infiltration-prone border areas of the country inclduing the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal in the North East. The concerned State Government have been requested to complete the ground work urgently so that distribution of identity cards may start immediately." Madam, I wanted to know what the details thereof are. How will the criteria by which the department will name those who are to be issued the identity cards be determined? What is the ground-work that the State Governments were asked to carry out? These details are not here. The identity cards are going to be distributed on what criteria.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Madam, In my statement itself I have given the details. If he wants I can read it out. In Assam there are three districts identified, Dhubri, Cchar and Karimganj; in Meghalaya, West Gharo Hills, West Kazi Hills and Jaintia Hills; in Tripura, North Tripura, South Tripura and West Tripura; in Mizoram, Aisawl, Lungleh and Tuiliaripui in West Bengal, Coochbehar, etc. The districts are identified. This issuance of identity cards is in a phased manner. In principle we have accepted it. A Bill is also going to be circulated to that effect. That will be introduced in this very session itself and within 5 years this scheme is going to be implemented. The enormous work, money and staff involved will take a lot of time. As far as our target is concerned, we have already made a provision of Rs. 64.40 crores for five years for all these States.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.